AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for Agrobacterium-mediated gene transduction into a plant material, comprising:

1) preparing the plant material, and then

2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium,

characterized in that a medium enriched in a metal salt containing copper ion is used at least in step ~~1) and/or~~ 2).

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metal salt is copper sulfate or copper gluconate.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metal salt is copper sulfate.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a medium enriched in copper sulfate or copper gluconate is used in at least step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a medium containing 1-50 μM copper sulfate or copper gluconate is used in at least step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising subjecting the plant material to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of pressurization, heat treatment, centrifugation and sonication in step 1) of preparing the plant material and/or step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is a monocotyledon.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is maize.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is rice.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant material is an immature embryo.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

3) selecting a transformed cell, and

4) optionally regenerating the selected transformant, subsequently to step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

3) selecting a transformed cell, and

4) optionally regenerating the selected transformant, subsequently to step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium, wherein a medium enriched in a metal salt containing copper ion is used in at least one of the steps above.

14. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a transformed plant characterized in that the method of claims 12 or 13 is used.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a transformed plant by Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of a plant material, comprising:

1) preparing the plant material,

2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium,

3) selecting a transformed cell, and

4) regenerating the selected transformant, characterized in that a medium enriched in a metal salt containing copper ion is used in step 2) and step 4).

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the metal salt is copper sulfate or copper gluconate.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15 or 16, wherein the concentration of the metal salt is 1-50 μM.

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the plant is a monocotyledon.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the plant is maize.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the plant is rice.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the plant material is an immature embryo.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for promoting the growth of a regenerated plant characterized in that a medium enriched in a metal salt containing copper ion is used in the step of regenerating a plant from a dedifferentiated plant cell.

23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the concentration of the

metal salt is 1-10 μM.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the medium containing 1-10 μM copper sulfate or copper gluconate is used in at least step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.

25. (New) A method for Agrobacterium-mediated gene transduction into a plant material, comprising:

1) preparing the plant material, and then

2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium,

3) selecting a transformed cell, and

4) regenerating the selected transformant, characterized in that a medium enriched in a metal salt containing a copper ion is used in steps 2) and 4).

26. (New) A method for Agrobacterium-mediated gene transduction into a plant material, comprising:

1) preparing the plant material, and then

2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium,

3) selecting a transformed cell, and

4) regenerating the selected transformant, characterized in that a medium enriched in a metal salt containing copper ion is used in step 2).